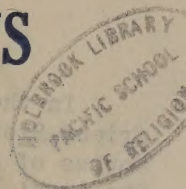


JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS



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CLERGYMEN SCHEDULE STUDIES ON WORSHIP

Noting that the study of Worship has been sorely neglected in Japanese churches, a group of Tokyo pastors has announced a series of meetings on the subject of worship. The purpose is to further evangelism and the indigenization of the church in Japan.

At the first lecture, to be held Monday, January 22, 7:00p.m., the Higashi Nakano United Church of Christ (6-8-3 Higashi Nakano, Nakano-ku, Tokyo), Professor Hiroshi Shimmi, Aoyama Gakuin University, will speak on "Worship in a Secular Age." Followed by discussion.

Scheduled every other month, the lecture series will touch many aspects of worship--theology, preaching, liturgy, music and choirs, the church calendar, art and architecture. On March 18, Rev. Soji Kitamura, Higashi Nakano Church, will speak on "Worship in the Church of Scotland."

While the twelve members of the sponsoring committee are pastors of The United Church of Christ, the emphasis will be ecumenical, with attendance open to pastors and laymen of all churches.

Mr. Shimmi, who recently returned to Japan after serving three years in the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, gained a wide knowledge of European church practices and is recognized as one of the newer scholars in the area of liturgy and worship.

NAGOYA'S BLUE-EYED NEWSPAPER BOYS

People of industrious Japan share, to some extent, the familiar Asian opinion that an individual who gets his hands dirty cannot be a gentleman or the son of a gentleman. For this reason, two American youngsters who took jobs as newspaper vendors recently found themselves the recipients of wide attention by Japanese newspapers, magazines and television stations.

In the 5:00 A.M. darkness of central Honshu, young Paul Manierre (13) and his friend Steve Offner (14) hurry up and down the hills of Nagoya city to deliver copies of Asahi Shimbun, the world's largest (six million circulation) newspaper. The boys' fathers are missionaries.

When young Paul and Steve learned that Japan's newspapers were having difficulty in recruiting home delivery carriers, they leaped at the opportunity to earn money toward future university expenses. At first the two boys were discouraged by Mr. Iwatsuki, the local Asahi circulation manager, who doubted their ability to read names in the difficult Japanese script. Within a week, however, the two foreign lads had mastered their routes. Each has about 125 papers to deliver every morning and evening. Their attendance is excellent, and Mr. Iwatsuki reports that they never grumble when given "extra" advertising materials to insert into the folded newspapers.

Both the Manierre and Offner families have been astonished at the press coverage given their enterprising sons. First the Asahi newspapers, and later such national magazines as Shufu-to-Seikatsu (Woman's Life) and the International Pictorial despatched reporters to Nagoya to interview and photograph the young people and their parents. NHK, the Japanese national television net, carried a story on the boys in their prime 11:00 P.M. show, and CBC--an independent network--will feature the two carriers on October 13.

So far, the attention has not interfered with the boys' jobs. They are well-liked by their co-workers, who treat them to rolls filled with sweet bean paste after morning deliveries, or (when the air is chill) to steaming bowls of hot noodles. Housewives, up early, practice their English on the hurrying youngsters.

The boys' customers -- and the Japanese press -- have been extremely interested in the why of their employment, and in the reasons for their families' presence in Japan. "Why does everyone make a fuss?", the elder Manierre asked an Asahi writer, not realizing (as the writer pointed out) that "in Japan only very poor children are newspaper boys, and that it is a kind of work looked-down upon by ordinary persons."

Many Japanese young people have written to Paul Manierre about his employment. One high school youth reported that his mother had forbidden him to take a newspaper carrier's job because "people would laugh at me". "Now", the student wrote gratefully, "she has relented after seeing your picture in the paper."

Now winter grips Japan, and frost crowns the gateposts of Nagoya. Paul Manierre and Steve Offner don't care much. "It's not cold that bothers us, and not the early morning sleepiness", they tell you. "But we wish somebody would lock up those dogs at night. They run after us wherever we go."

MISSIONARY WIVES SCHEDULE RETREAT

The annual conference of Kyodan-related missionary wives will be held at the new Shugakuin House of Japan Christian Academy, Kyoto, on January 26-28.

The Theme of the conference will be "Freed and Empowered by God to Live." Wives will come to the conference with background readings completed in Martin Luther's Freedom of the Christian and Bonhoeffer's Letters from Prison.

ICU LABORATORY BURGLARIZED

Thieves entered ICU's audio-visual laboratory on the fourth floor of University Hall during the night of Friday, November 24. Stolen were 60 tapes on general and natural sciences.

PROFESSOR COUNSELS STUDENTS OPPOSING DRAFT

Dr. Robert Blood, visiting associate professor of sociology at International Christian University, has volunteered to counsel American students at the university who are opposed to military service.

AVACO SCRIPT NOW IN PERSIAN

Word received from Teheran, Iran, indicates that the script for AVACO's "Highway is My Parish" film strip has now been translated into Persian.

The film strip now exists in Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, Persian, and English.

JAPANESE COLLECT MONEY FOR KOREAN PASTORS

Professor Masatoshi Korogi, Secretary for the Japan NCC's Theological Education Fund has issued an appeal for Japanese to contribute to a fund for the purchase of books for rural pastors of Korea. Korea's village pastors earn only 5-6,000 won (app. \$24) per month.

